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Attorney Docket No. 056314/0002

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenichi IGA et al. Group Art Unit: 2882
Serial No.: 09/717,733 Examiner: Chih-Cheng Glen Kao
Filed: November 21, 2000
For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL FIBER
SPLICING**

#9B-Sub
M. Bruner
8/1/02

July 25, 2003

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED MARCH 25, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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This is responsive to the Office Action mailed March 25, 2003 finally rejecting claim 1 in the above-referenced patent application, for which a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 is being filed concurrently herewith. This Response is being submitted within the first month after the shortened statutory period set for response in the final Office Action. A separate Petition and Fee for a one-month extension of time are being submitted herewith. With the extension, the deadline for response is reset to expire on July 25, 2003.

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